

B. The Claims

Claims of Group I, and Group II, as set forth in the application, while being patentably distinct, do not require restriction as they are connected by a single, searchable unifying relationship that connects the claims in design. M.P.E.P. § 802.01 (Feb. 2003). Because of the single, searchable unifying relationship, the Examiner would not be seriously burdened by searching and examining the claims together in a single application.

The claims are connected by a single searchable unifying relationship, namely an integrated biochip system. This unifying relationship connects the claims of the groups in design because all claims relate to the same integrated biochip system. The single searchable unifying element can be primarily searched by electronically searching key words.

Because the claims as set forth in the application are patentably distinct, are not independent and are connected by a single searchable unifying element, the Examiner would not be seriously burdened by examining these claims together. Applicants request that the Examiner join the claims of Groups I, and II. Accordingly, the USPTO would not be unduly burdened to search and examine the claims of Groups I, and II.